

Prescription Free Affordable Housing

Prescription free, because it does not assume how one's personal space should be configured. Affordable, initially for the developer, who is only required to provide volumes of space, assembled within a steel frame and accessible via a continuous ramped walkway. The consumer is provided with a volume of empty space and the freedom to please their own desires and evolving needs. At the completion of construction the local council would be required to reimburse the developer for the costs associated with structure, circulation and services, on the basis that this is understood to be 'housing' infrastructure, as in the case of greenfield land release, a purchaser is provided with a lot of land, typically connected to a roadway, which also has the ability to attach to the centralised utilities. The walkway is simply a pedestrianised continuum of the street, it is the single mode of circulation, external shared space and a framework from which services are suspended. The threshold between these volumes of space and this public thoroughfare resemble that of the original terraced housing within Surry Hills. Deliberately, the party walls have been rotated, and each instance of residential accommodation is separated by a commercial/retail space, equal in size/volume. It is my belief that in order to maintain activity and event upon this ramp it requires a constant turn over of population. It is possible that many of those living within the building might find employment on site, or will locate their own business there. In addition to stimulating the environment the angled walls provide a longer facade for the business/commercial units, therefore providing these spaces with the opportunity for maximum self promotion onto the pedestrian ramp, likewise, privacy is enhanced to the residential units which are oriented to the periphery of the site and sheltered by large vertical pivoting screens.

The accommodation modules suggested contain large volume double height spaces, which I predict are necessary for what I see as an opportunity to provide an alternative to suburban family living. This alternative provides families with a more robust and flexible apartment space within the inner city zone of Sydney. The ability to internally convert the space with suspended sleeping capsules and off the shelf bathroom compartments, a deliberate move away from prescribed finishes, fixtures and floor plans.